

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Above the cold winds is a clear blue sky. Behind a flurry of activity is the conviction we are entering a holy season.

Lord God, as Congress resumes major responsibilities today, we mourn the passing of a dear colleague, strong witness of perseverance in suffering and advocate for the poor and the homeless, the Honorable JULIA CARSON.

Her sweet manner always shown through her raspy voice and determination. Her smile born out of sincerity and faith encouraged others when there was only a smidgen of hope.

God of all consolation, reward her public service, and be close to all who grieve the loss of her presence.

As all prepare to celebrate the approaching feast of heaven and Earth, we know many will greet her with shouts of triumph and thanksgiving. In Your kingdom, You will invite her to take her place where Rosa Parks has reserved for her a seat.

May she rest in peace. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOOD LION SUPERMARKETS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Food Lion, a North Carolina business success story, for 50 years of doing business the right way.

Food Lion, founded in Salisbury, North Carolina, in 1957, today boasts a chain of 1,300 supermarkets spread throughout the Southeast and mid-Atlantic States.

Food Lion's 73,000 employees serve more than 10 million customers every week and embody the ethic that great service in local communities is a for-

mula for a successful and profitable business.

This company has shown a true commitment to its employees by offering employees a working environment that focuses not just on good wages, but also integrates working conditions and profit-sharing arrangements that are some of the best in the retail business.

And Food Lion's business model doesn't stop at the bottom line or with treating employees right. Food Lion gives back every year to many community organizations and charitable causes, including the Children's Miracle Network, America's Second Harvest Food Banks, Easter Seals, the United Way, the American Red Cross, and local schools.

Food Lion represents the type of company that helps make North Carolina and America great. I applaud their 50 years of service to hundreds of communities and wish them many more years of success.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the passing of the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON), the whole number of the House is 433.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled joint resolution on Thursday, December 13, 2007:

H.J. Res. 69, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 14, 2007, at 2:13 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2338.

That the Senate agreed to the amendments of the House to the Text and Title of the bill S. 597.

That the Senate agreed to the Conference Report accompanying the bill H.R. 1585.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 269.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 14, 2007, at 6:13 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2488.

That the Senate passed S. 2400.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3648.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3739.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 13, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 13, 2007, at 6:55 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 69.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 14, 2007, at 12:10 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to the House amendments to the Senate amendments to the bill with an amendment; that the Senate agreed to the House amendments to the Senate amendments to the title of the bill H.R. 6.